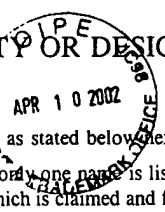


DECLARATION OF UTILITY OR DESIGN PATE. APPLICATION

Docket No. 02006GTP



As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled CONTINUOUS NICKEL PLATING PROCESS FOR AN ALUMINUM CONDUCTOR AND

CORRESPONDING DEVICE

specification of which (check one) _____ is described and claimed in PCT International Application _____ filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____, amended on _____ (if applicable) (OR) _____ is described in United States Application Number 10/050,896 filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) January 18, 2002 (OR) _____ is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Number(s) | Country | Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Priority Claimed? | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----|
| | | | Yes | No |
| 99/09690 | France | July 22, 1999 | XX | |
| PCT/FRO0/02061 | PCT | July 18, 2000 | XX | |

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Donald L. Dennison
Burton Scheiner

Reg. No. 19920
Reg. No. 24018

Ira J. Schultz
Malcolm MacDonald

Reg. No. 28666
Reg. No. 40250

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
DENNISON, SCHEINER & SCHULTZ
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 612
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3417

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: Ira J. Schultz
(703)412-1155 Ext. 23
(703)412-1161 (fax)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor Gabriel COLOMBIER
(First, Middle, Family Name or Surname)

Inventor's signature _____ Date 15 Mars 2002

Residence Saint Egreve, France Citizenship France

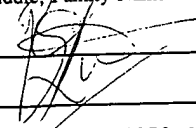
Full Post Office Address 19, rue Adolphe Muguet, 38120 Saint Egreve, France

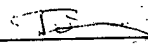
Full name of second joint inventor Jean-Sylvestre SAFRANY

Second inventor's signature _____ Date Mars 11 2002

Residence La Murette, France Citizenship France
(City, State, Country)

Full Post Office Address 390, Route de la Sure, 38140 La Murette, France

Full name of third joint inventor Bernard LOREAU
(First, Middle, Family Name or Surname)
Third inventor's signature  Date March 23, 2002
Residence Sucy en Brie, France Citizenship France
(City, State, Country)
Full Post Office Address 8, rue de Grand Champ, 94370 Sucy en Brie, France

Full name of fourth joint inventor Sandrine TOURNIER
(First, Middle, Family Name or Surname)
Fourth inventor's signature  Date March 11, 2002
Residence Fontaine, France Citizenship France
(City, State, Country)
Full Post Office Address 50, rue Jean Pain, 38600 Fontaine, France